



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

The OEIG is pleased to announce the following changes to its staff:

- **Danielle Cantrell** was promoted from Investigator to Assistant Inspector General in the Regional Transit Board Division, effective April 27, 2015.
- **Jamie L. Crellin** began as an Investigative Intern in the Springfield Division, effective May 21, 2015.

Separate OEIG Investigations Find IDVA Failed to Supervise State Grants, Follow Hiring Rules



Two OEIG investigations at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) have recently become public. On April 15, 2015, the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) released the OEIG report *In re: Cavanaugh* (Case #11-02230), which found that an IDVA employee failed to properly monitor state grants. Six days later, the EEC released the OEIG investigation *In re: Gulli et al.* (Case #10-01308), which found that IDVA improperly used multiple emergency appointments of employees.

Failure to perform essential job duties can have big consequences for employees and agencies.

-Christine Benavente

Legislative Assistant Inspector General

The grant investigation found that former IDVA employee **Kevin Cavanaugh**, who resigned during the course of the investigation, accepted gifts from grantees, participated in grant related decisions despite a conflict of interest, failed to ensure that grantees filed required reports, and failed to deny subsequent grants to non-compliant grantees. During the course of the investigation, IDVA recovered \$402,772 of unused Veterans Cash Grant Program funds. IDVA also placed a copy of the OEIG's report in **Mr. Cavanaugh's** personnel file with an indication that he should not be rehired.

The hiring investigation determined that 19 of 40 people hired based on emergency appointments at IDVA's Manteno facility received multiple consecutive appointments in violation of the Personnel Code. The OEIG report led IDVA to retrain an employee and to direct that a staffer who resigned not be rehired.

CTA Terminated Bus Operator for False Claims

On April 15, 2015, the EEC released an OEIG report that found CTA bus operator **Shenequa Carter** filed false Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) forms. In *In re: Carter* (Case #13-00740), the OEIG concluded that **Ms. Carter** forged information on her FMLA forms, including her doctor's signature. The OEIG also found that **Ms. Carter** failed to cooperate with the investigation by falsely stating to investigators that she had submitted blank forms to her doctor's office to be filled out.

In addition to being required to be truthful on FMLA forms, State employees are required by law to be truthful during OEIG investigations.

- Ryan Donaldson

Assistant Inspector General

As a result of the OEIG investigation, the CTA conducted its own investigation, found that **Ms. Carter** violated CTA policies, and discharged her.